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General Assembly

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Sixty-eighth session
Agenda item 19
Sustainable development

Letter dated 4 February 2014 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to convey to you information on the outcome of the socioeconomic development of the Republic of Uzbekistan in 2013 and on the priorities of the economic programme in 2014 (see annex).

I would appreciate if you could circulate the attachment as a document of the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly under agenda item 19.

(*Signed*) Ildar **Shigabutdinov**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Permanent Mission of the Republic of Uzbekistan

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Annex to the letter dated 4 February 2014 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

Socioeconomic development in the Republic of Uzbekistan in 2013 and priorities of the economic agenda for 2014

On 17 January 2014, the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan met to discuss the country's socioeconomic development outcomes for 2013 and the chief priorities of its economic agenda for 2014. At that meeting, a presentation was given by Mr. Islam Karimov, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

The President's report indicated that, despite the slowdown in the growth of the world economy and the increased risks to its development, Uzbekistan had enjoyed continued strong growth, macroeconomic balance and economic modernization in 2013 as a result of its consistent implementation of a reform and development strategy aimed at creating a modern, competitive and diversified market economy.

The 2013 results include growth figures of 8 per cent for gross domestic product (GDP), 8.8 per cent for manufacturing, 6.8 per cent for agriculture, 16.6 per cent for construction, 13.5 per cent for services and 14.8 per cent for retail trade. Implementation of the State budget yielded a surplus equivalent to 0.3 per cent of GDP. Inflation stood at 6.8 per cent and did not exceed projections.

As a result of an active investment policy aimed at accelerating the development and technological upgrading of industry and of social, road transport and communications infrastructure, fixed investment grew by 11.3 per cent. Foreign investment exceeded US$ 3 billion, more than 72 per cent of which consisted of foreign direct investment. Under the country's investment programme, 150 projects totalling some US$ 2.7 billion were carried out in the production sectors.

Notwithstanding the volatility of the current global market, measures to promote the activities of domestic producers and exporters and to realize their competitive advantages led to a 10.9 per cent increase in exports and a significantly positive external trade balance.

The country's banking system is operating sustainably, as its capital adequacy remains three times the international minimum standard and its liquidity is 2.2 times the highest standards. Over the past year, the total capital of commercial banks has grown by 25 per cent. Domestic sources account for about 80 per cent of the banks' total loan portfolio.

The measures taken to support, modernize and intensify agricultural production have brought about qualitative changes in the agricultural sector. Despite adverse weather conditions and a water shortage, the past year witnessed high yields of all major crops: 3.36 million tons of cotton, 7.8 million tons of grain and 8.4 million tons of vegetables.

The continued implementation of systemic measures to further improve the business environment have spurred the development of small businesses. More than

26,000 new small businesses have been created, and this sector's share of gross domestic product has risen steadily.

As a result of the steps taken under the annual programme to increase employment, some 970,000 people gained employment in 2013; more than 60.3 per cent of these jobs are in rural areas.

The country's continued economic vibrancy has translated into steady improvements in the population's standard of living and quality of life. In 2013, public sector wages, pensions, scholarships and social benefits grew by 20.8 per cent, and the real income of the population rose by 16 per cent.

In his report, the President focused in particular on the detailed analysis of outstanding issues and on programme activities for meeting the critical priorities and challenges of the country's socioeconomic development in 2014.

The heads of ministries, departments, business associations and local executive authorities were tasked with taking the necessary measures to achieve in 2014 sustained high levels of economic development, growth and streamlining of investment, the introduction of essential modern high-tech facilities and capacities in industry, and the creation of a fully competitive environment in the country, as integration into world markets is a key factor for the technical and technological updating and modernization of production. Specific actions were identified for enhancing the business environment, fully supporting and further encouraging small business, developing the social sector, creating new jobs, building housing and upgrading human settlements, and further reforming and improving education and health care.

Particular attention was paid to the implementation of the programme measures identified in connection with the proclamation of 2014 as the Year of the Healthy Child, including measures for mother and child protection, higher-quality primary education, greater involvement of young people in physical education and sports, and an expanded role for civil society organizations in the upbringing of children.

The discussion of the issues raised at this meeting resulted in the adoption of a government decision identifying practical measures for addressing the chief priorities of the country's socioeconomic development agenda for 2014.

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Agenda item 140
Joint Inspection Unit

Report of the Joint Inspection Unit for 2013

Note by the Secretary-General

1. The present note was prepared pursuant to paragraph 17 of General Assembly resolution 65/270, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB), to expedite the implementation of that resolution, including through the expected provision of support to the Joint Inspection Unit by the secretariats of the participating organizations in the preparation of its reports, notes and confidential letters, and through the consideration of and action on the recommendations of the Unit in the light of pertinent resolutions of the General Assembly, and to report to the Assembly on an annual basis on the results achieved.

2. In accordance with the statute of the Joint Inspection Unit, the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of CEB and through the secretariat of CEB, provides substantive support to the Unit. This occurs primarily during the preparation of Joint Inspection Unit reports and, most significantly, after a report of system-wide concern has been completed. In accordance with the mandate of the Unit, the secretariat of CEB circulates to United Nations system organizations all reports that have a system-wide focus and compiles the comments received. During this process, and as a matter of normal practice, the secretariat requests organizations to respond within the deadline provided in order to produce, within the mandated time frame, the comments of the Secretary-General and those of CEB members.

3. During 2013, the CEB secretariat prepared comments for seven Joint Inspection Unit system-wide reports, principally from the programme of work of the previous year. In each case, the secretariat requested organizations to comment on the final version of the report, including the methodology used during its preparation and the content of the recommendations. These comments are collated and issued as United Nations documents under cover of a note by the Secretary-General and reflect the overall consensus of the United Nations system, although each organization may choose to address the specific recommendations within the framework of its governing bodies.

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4. In addition to circulating and commenting on Joint Inspection Unit reports of system-wide concern, the CEB secretariat continues to work very closely with the Unit on the preparation of its annual programme of work. The CEB secretariat provides substantive input regarding specific proposals and facilitates the process as requested by the secretariat of the Joint Inspection Unit.

5. The CEB secretariat continues to maintain a constant dialogue with the Joint Inspection Unit to ensure a smooth report preparation process and to identify methods for enhancing the value of the Unit's reports. During 2013, the Procurement Network of the High-level Committee on Management of CEB provided input into the preparation of the report on long-term agreements in procurement in the United Nations system and the Information and Communication Technology Network supported the preparation of the report on enterprise resource planning systems. In addition, the Human Resources Network provided input into reports that concern human resource issues. These examples are indicative of the regular participation of the sub-bodies of CEB in the preparation of reports of the Joint Inspection Unit.

6. As regards organizations' consideration of and action on the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit in the light of pertinent resolutions of the General Assembly, chapter I, section F of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit for 2013 (A/68/34) contains detailed information about the actions taken by organizations of CEB in follow-up to recommendations of the Unit.

7. The Secretary-General will continue to pursue a closer working relationship with the Joint Inspection Unit and to encourage all organizations to respond in a timely manner and in a spirit of cooperation to requests of the Unit.

United Nations A/68/740–S/2014/77

General Assembly
Security Council

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10 February 2014

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General Assembly
Sixty-eighth session
Agenda item 42
Question of Cyprus

Security Council
Sixty-ninth year

Letter dated 31 January 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 29 January 2014, addressed to you by Mehmet Dânâ, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I would be grateful if the text of the present letter and the annex thereto could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 42, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Y. Halit **Çevik**
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 31 January 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I would like to refer to the letter of the Greek Cypriot representative in New York, dated 6 December 2013 (S/2013/724), which contains unfounded allegations concerning the protection of cultural property in Northern Cyprus, specifically in reference to Saint Hilarion Castle situated in the Girne (Kyrenia) mountain range. In this regard, the letter of the Greek Cypriot representative contains a baseless claim that there are "significant dangers for the stability and integrity of [Saint Hilarion Castle]" as a result of "the continued operation of a shooting range of the Turkish occupation army" within the vicinity of the monument.

At the outset, it should be underlined that none of the United Nations Security Council resolutions on Cyprus describe the legitimate and justified Turkish intervention of 1974, undertaken in accordance with article 4 of the Treaty of Guarantee of 1960, as "invasion" or the subsequent presence of Turkish troops on the island as "occupation". Such allegations are nothing but pure Greek Cypriot forgery aimed at distorting the historical facts and realities of the island. In this context, it is imperative to recall the dramatic statement made before the Security Council on 19 July 1974 by Archbishop Makarios, the Greek Cypriot leader at the time, in which he openly accused Greece, not Turkey, of invading and occupying Cyprus. His remarks, which came only four days after the Greek junta's coup of 15 July 1974, are well-recorded in the annals of the United Nations and hardly require further elaboration.

As regards the allegations at hand, it should be stressed that the Turkish Cypriot side has always considered and treated the historic sites and monuments located in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus as the common cultural heritage of humanity as a whole and has accordingly taken every precaution and step to ensure their protection and preservation. Saint Hilarion Castle is no exception in this regard. To elaborate more specifically on the realities pertaining to the allegations of the Greek Cypriot representative, I would like to clarify that the military zone in question is well over a kilometre away from the castle, totally falsifying the claim that it is 500 metres away, and thus poses no threat whatsoever to the stability or integrity of the castle. This is especially true given the rigorous standards of safety adhered to by the military. The letter of the Greek Cypriot representative also claims that there are "blasts and the possibility of explosives" at the site, which is completely false since there is no ammunition present at the said military site which fits this description.

By distorting the facts, the Greek Cypriot side has once again fabricated a false allegation in an attempt to mislead the international community so that it puts pressure on the Turkish Cypriot side and Turkey. Furthermore, it should be known that Saint Hilarion Castle is one of the most popular and oft-frequented tourist destinations in North Cyprus, and the Turkish Cypriot side would not do anything to jeopardize the monumental value of such a site or endanger visitors. To this day, there have been no complaints from either the tourists visiting the castle or the staff who are present at the site, pertaining to any military activity or disturbance, blasts or otherwise, in the region.

Contrary to Greek Cypriot rhetoric, in fact, it is the dire condition of the Turkish-Muslim historic sites and monuments located in South Cyprus that requires immediate attention. Today, it is an undeniable fact that most of the Turkish-Muslim cultural heritage located in the South has simply disappeared due to neglect and wilful destruction and, unfortunately, the remaining few are faced with a similar fate. Thus, as the Turkish Cypriot side, we call on the international community to do its utmost and remind the Greek Cypriot side of its obligations deriving from the relevant international legal instruments for the protection and preservation of the cultural heritage located in South Cyprus regardless of its origin.

It is clear that this is yet another futile attempt aimed at diverting attention from the Greek Cypriot intransigence and delaying tactics in relation to the efforts for a comprehensive settlement in Cyprus. It is imperative that the Greek Cypriot side discontinue such counter-productive policies and sincerely engage with its counterpart, the Turkish Cypriot side, for a fair and durable settlement in Cyprus. Moreover, it is noteworthy that while the search for a negotiated settlement to the Cyprus issue continues, the two sides have been cooperating on matters concerning the preservation of cultural heritage through the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage since its establishment in 2008. The Committee is comprised of members from the two sides as well as a United Nations facilitator.

I would be grateful if the text of the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 42, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mehmet **Dânâ**
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus

United Nations A/68/741

General Assembly

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7 February 2014

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Sixty-eighth session
Agenda items 76 (a) and 85

Oceans and the law of the sea

The rule of law at the national and international levels

Letter dated 20 January 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Costa Rica reaffirms its communication submitted on 15 July 2013 regarding Nicaragua's submission to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf and, with respect to Nicaragua's communication MINIC-NU-048-13 of 20 December 2013, would like to state the following.

The delimitation of the continental shelf between Costa Rica and Nicaragua is pending and is in dispute. Areas claimed by Nicaragua in its submission encroach on Costa Rican entitlements. The tripoint that Nicaragua refers to in its communication of 20 December 2013 does not reflect accurately the geographic or legal relationship among Costa Rica, Panama and Colombia, and is wholly unrelated to the outstanding question of the disputed maritime boundary between Costa Rica and Nicaragua. Costa Rica made its position clear during its request to intervene in *Territorial and Maritime Dispute (Nicaragua v. Colombia)*. Nicaragua's continued insistence upon its conflicting and incorrect position reflects the existence of a dispute between the two countries.

Consequently, Costa Rica rejects the claims advanced by Nicaragua in its submission, considers them to be without legal effect, reserves its rights in this regard and refers the Commission to its Rules of Procedure, specifically rule 46 and annex I, governing submissions in case of a dispute between States with opposite or adjacent coasts or in other cases of unresolved land or maritime disputes.

In that regard, I kindly request that the present letter be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 76 (a) and 85. Upon instructions from my Government, I also request that this letter be sent to all relevant organs, bodies and entities of the United Nations, be posted on the website of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea and be included in the next Law of the Sea Bulletin.

(*Signed*) Eduardo **Ulibarri**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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